

Iowa Department of Human Service



# CEDAR RAPIDS SERVICE AREA FOSTER PARENT SURVEY RESULTS (SEPTEMBER 2006)



## **BACKGROUND**

As the Department of Human Services continues to move to a results-based environment, we have been looking at our practices, strategies, and resources that are aligned with desired outcomes. One of the most critical resources that provide assistance to the children we work with are the foster parents who provide care, support and stability for children who must be placed outside of parental home.

Towards that end, in September 2006, we sent out a survey to all the foster homes in the fourteen counties that comprise our service area in an effort to look at a number of focal points, including

- foster home licensing and education issues,
- the roles of foster parents and what they are comfortable with,
- how the DHS placing and/or ongoing worker is doing in supporting that placement,
- the level of partnering that is occurring with the foster home, and
- how we can improve practice so that children have better outcomes when placed in care.

The intent was to share the general results with licensing staff, with the placing and ongoing DHS workers and their supervisors so we can better assess what we are doing well and where we have opportunities to improve. We also intended to share some general feedback to our provider agencies and the Court about the strengths and opportunities of the larger child welfare system. And, most important, we wanted to share the service-area results with the foster parents themselves.

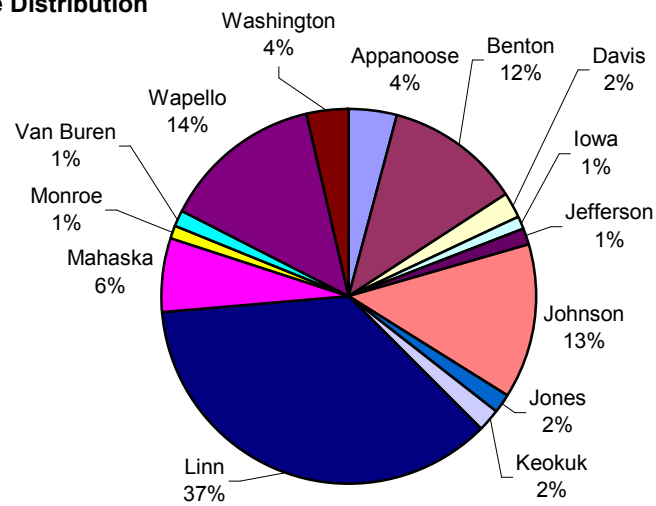
\* \* \* \* \*

Approximately 457 surveys were sent out in September 2006, with 172 responses received by the due date (a 38% return rate). On the following pages, the results for the service area are provided.

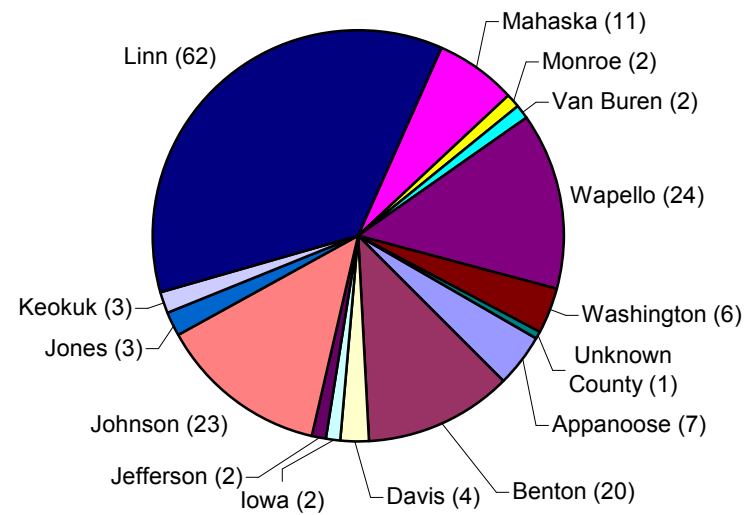
*If you have questions, please contact John Burke, Quality Assurance & Improvement Coordinator at Linn County Human Services, 411 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE – Suite 160, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. Phone: 319/892-6711. Email address: [jburke1@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:jburke1@dhs.state.ia.us).*

DEMOGRAPHICS REGARDING RESPONDENTS

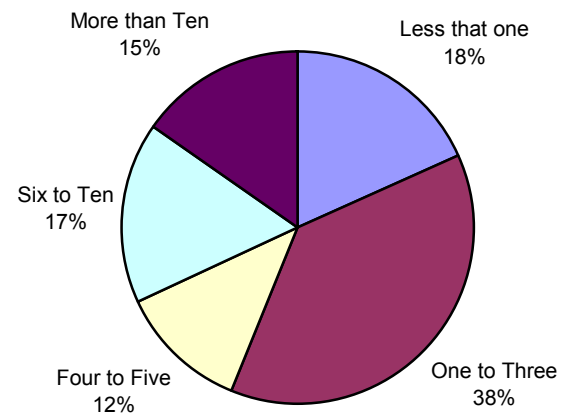
CRSA Foster Parent Survey  
- Response Distribution



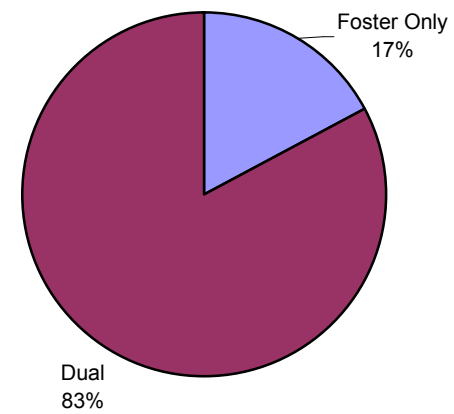
Responses Per County



Survey Repondents - Years As A Foster Parent

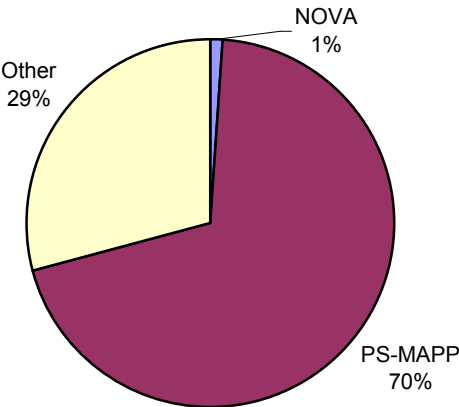


Survey Respondents - License Type

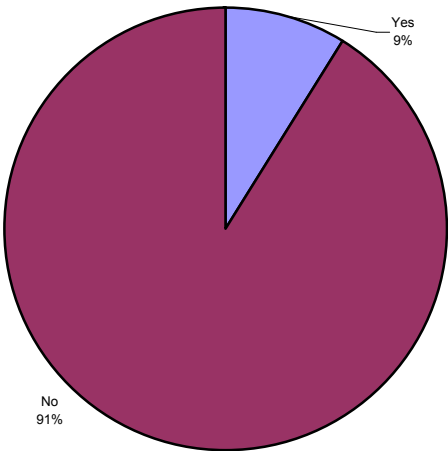


EDUCATION AND LICENSING

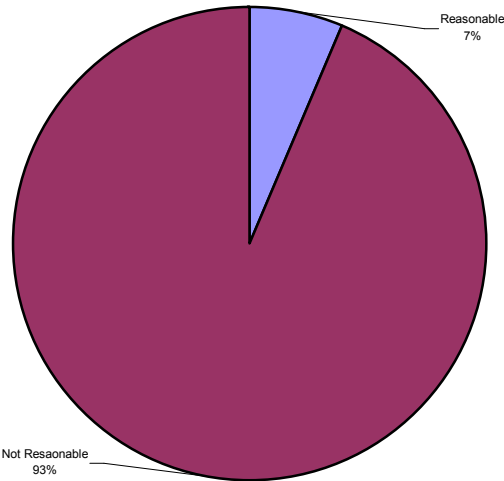
Survey Respondents - Training



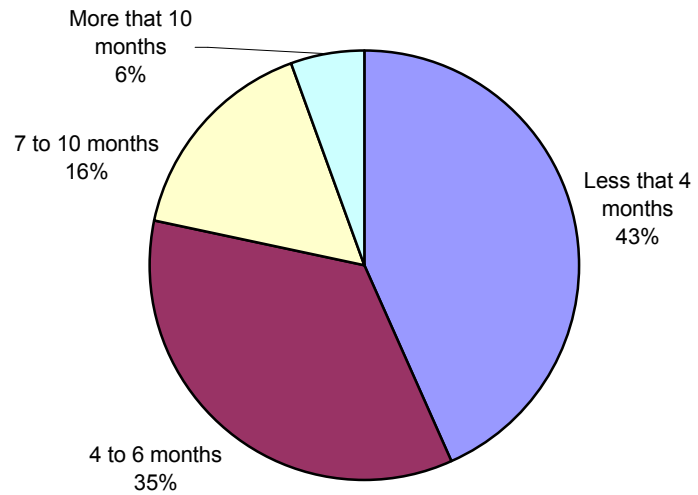
Training Met Foster Parents' Expectations



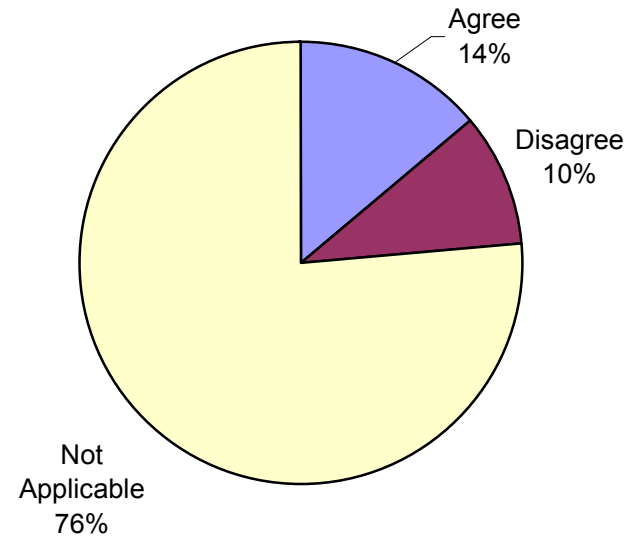
Felt License Process Was Reasonable



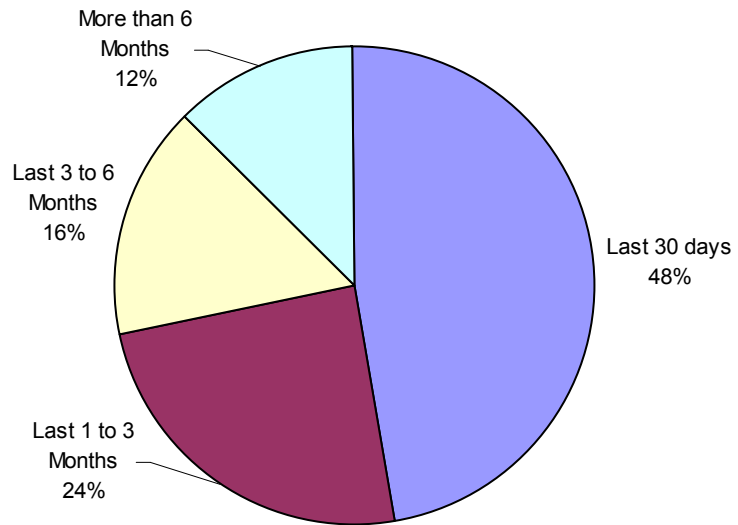
**Length Of Time To Obtain License**



**Foster Parent Felt DHS Foster Care Contact Was Knowledgeable & Responsive**

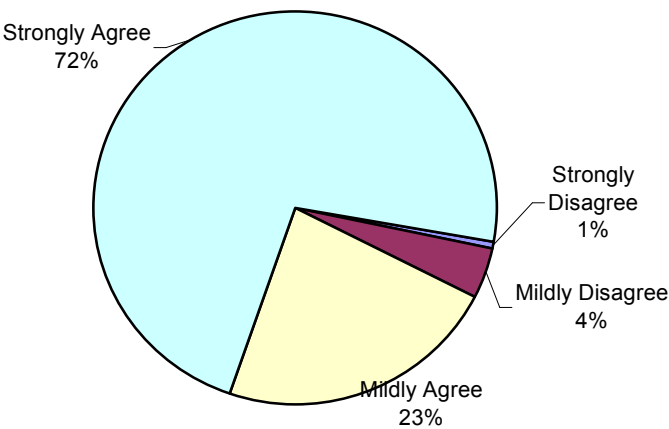


**Last Contact With DHS Licensing Staff with Foster Parent**

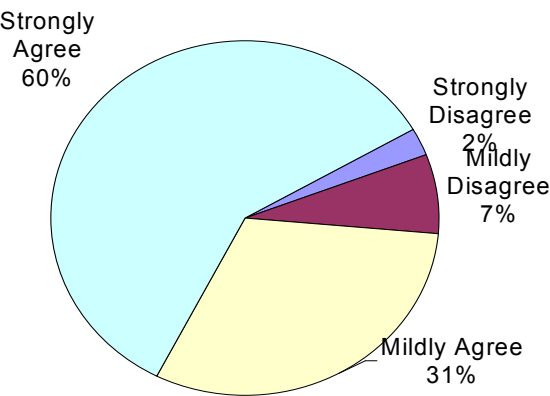


**ROLE OF THE FOSTER PARENT**

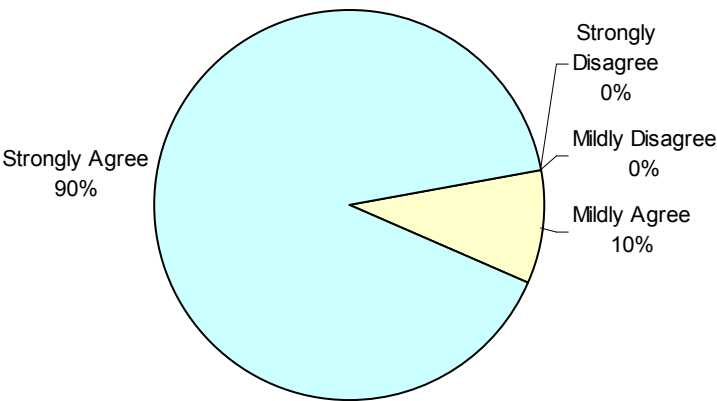
**Foster Parent Understands Importance Of Role Of Foster Parent in Working with Biological Family**



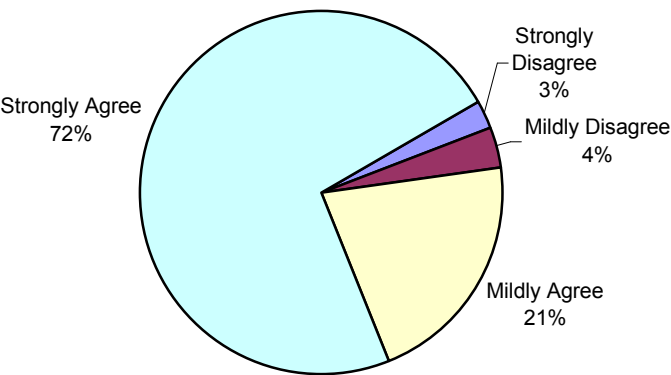
**Foster Parent Comfortable in Developing Plan with DHS to Work with Biological Family**



**Foster Parent Understands Importance of Sibling Contact When Not Residing in Same Home**

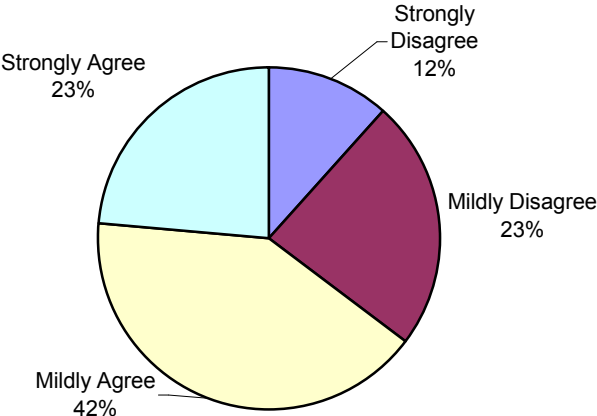


**Foster Parent Felt Comfortable Planning Support with DHS & Providers for Sibling Contact When Placed Apart**

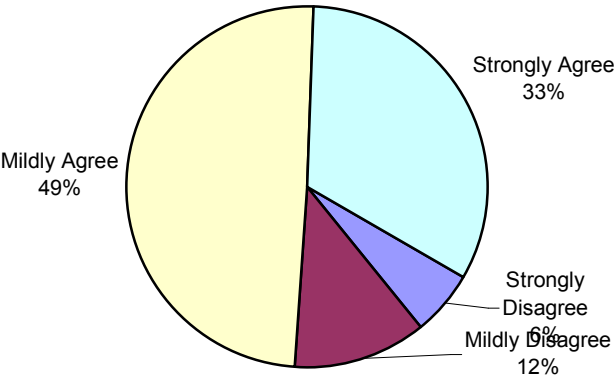


**LIFE OF THE PLACEMENT**

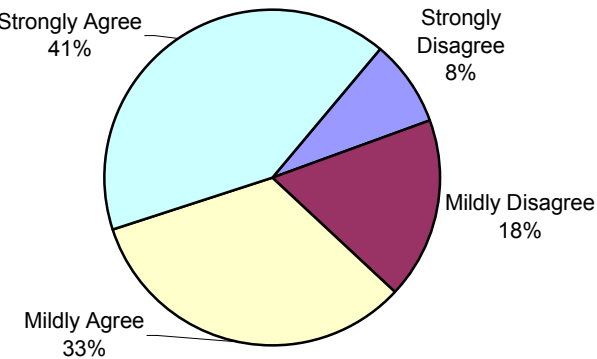
**Foster Parent Felt They Had Adequate Information At Placement to Meet Needs of Child**



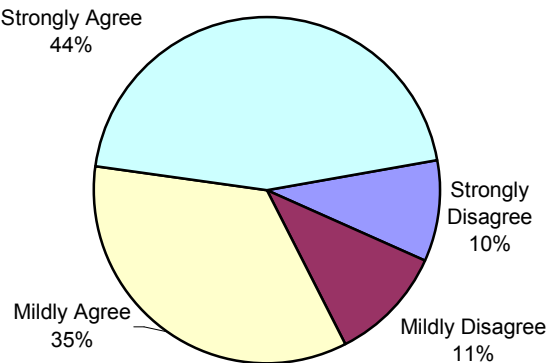
**If Placed by Assessor, Foster Parent Had Timely Information When Transferred to SWCM**



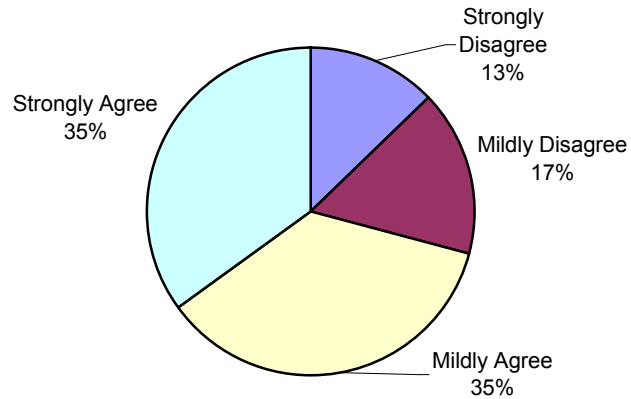
**Foster Parent Felt SWCM Had Sufficient Knowledge Base of Strengths, Needs and Progress of Foster Child**



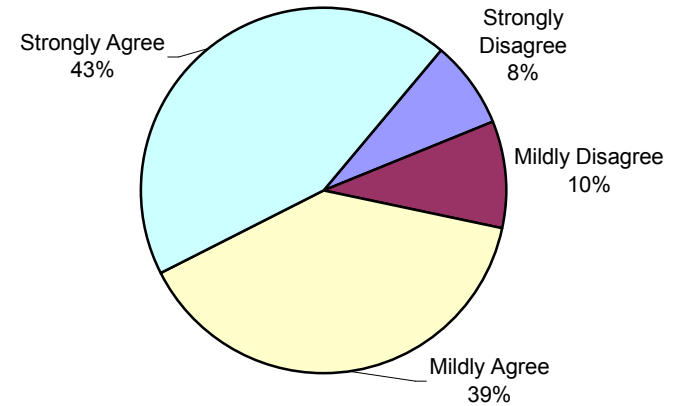
**SWCM & Foster Parent Maintain Adequate Communication to Help Meet Needs of Foster Child**



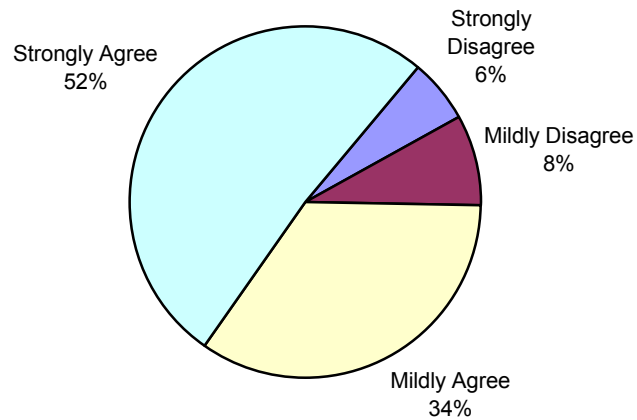
**SWCM Encourages Foster Parent's Input and Involvement in Case Planning for Foster Child**



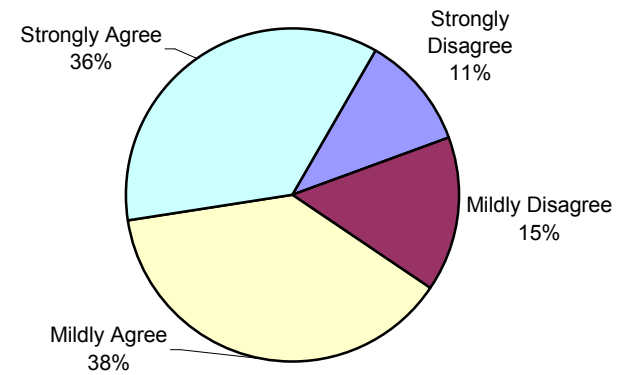
**CPA/SWCM is Responsive to Foster Parent When Needed**



**Agency Worker is Responsive to Foster Parent When Needed**

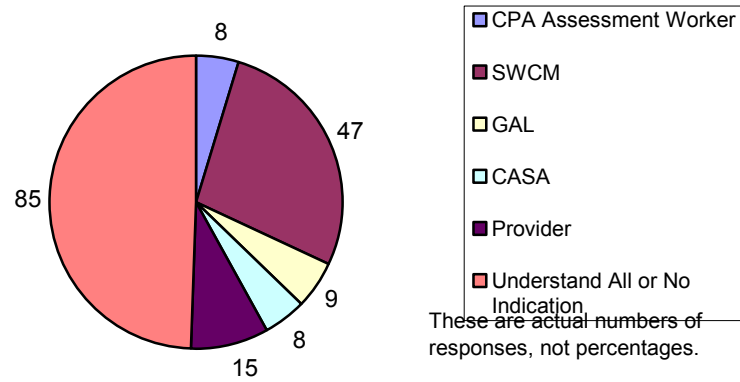


**Agency Worker Spends Adequate Time with Foster Parent Before/After Visits**





### Foster Parent Does Not Understand Role Of The....



### Foster Parent Feels GAL has Sufficient Knowledge of Foster Child to Adequately Represent

